

and distress. The patient stated that she was sensible of the medicine to the parts obstructed; the intestines seemed to herself to act upwards, and she experienced relief when the contents were evacuated; palliative treatment merely.

29. Met, at my request, Messrs. Baines, surgeons. The patient's symptoms were still of the same character; pulse fast and small, not hard; tongue dry and brown; bowels unrelieved by any further motion. The above-named gentlemen immediately concurred in the opinion I had already expressed, and the operation was decided on. The patient consented.

Operation.—A bed was arranged, the patient conveyed thither and placed in position. I divided the integument by the \perp incision. The superficial fascia was next raised on a director, and divided by a sweep of the bistoury; the cribriform fascia was now in view, its layers were cut through, the adipose tissue cleared away, and the hernial sac exposed; it was thickened and indurated, firm and tense with flatus, with a pen-shaped neck hanging by a small pedicle from the apex; to rub the sac between the fingers so as to separate the intestine was quite impracticable; the forceps could not hold, but by lateralising the scalpel and pitting the surface by slight scarifyings it was readily seized; the director was now passed and the sac opened; the intestine exhibited the blue color indicating healthy condition of the viscera. Caution was required from the dense nature of the sac and the numerous adhesions existing, which rendered its separation a delicate proceeding; the stricture was found at Gimbernat's ligament, and so rigidly claspings the intestine that the finger-nail could not be inserted without inflicting injury; the director, however, was insidiously passed and the knife traversed into the cavity, when, by carefully turning it upwards and cutting inwards, a few fibres of tendon were divided. The intestine was now easily reduced. On exploring, the ring adhesions were attached to its inner edge; two small vessels furnished blood and were tied; the parts were brought together by a few sutures, interspaced by strips of plaster, and apposition maintained by a lightly turned roller. The patient was now removed to bed, having exhibited great fortitude and spirits, and all exertion was forbidden; the bowels were opened the following day, and continued to act regularly.

The subsequent history of the case became protracted from sloughing of the integument, induced in great measure by the patient's constant coughing preventing union by the first intention; otherwise, the general recovery was rapid, and presented nothing deserving record. A truss adapted to the parts to be worn regularly.

Haymoor, Salop, Feb. 2, 1843.

SUDDEN DEATH FROM INJURY TO THE TESTICLES.

In some parts of Germany a barbarous custom exists, in cases of quarrel, of violently compressing the testicles.

M. Schlesier, of Peitz, relates a case of sudden death from this species of injury. The patient fell to the ground, was seized with violent convulsions, and died in a few minutes.

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The present session of Parliament promises to be one of great interest to the medical profession. Sir James Graham has formally announced his intention of introducing a general measure of medical reform. Last week Mr. French brought forward a bill for the better regulation of medical charities in Ireland; and on Tuesday last Mr. Mackinnon obtained leave to bring in a bill for the purpose of improving the health of towns, by preventing interments within their precincts.

These are, all and each of them, grave and important matters, affecting the interests of many, and the health and well-being of the whole community. For many years has the medical press been engaged in fruitlessly directing the attention of successive governments to these and many other subjects of similar import. Our entreaties were unheeded, our arguments cast away upon dull ears or hardened understandings. No one attempted to deny the justice of our demands, or the vast importance to public health of the questions which we agitated; yet government after government passed away without any effort having been made to redress the grievances of the profession, or any desire having been shown to protect and improve the health of the public.

We *had* no representative in the Imperial Parliament; we *have* no representative there, for the only man fitted, by his talents and special knowledge, to occupy the honorable post of medical advocate in the House of Commons, is precluded from so doing by the necessity of passing his time elsewhere, to earn his daily bread.

Instead, then, of boldly coming forward to support our principles, and demand, with a firm voice, redress of our evils, we—the members of the most honorable, the most scientific, and the most useful profession which exists—are obliged, like beggars, to pick up any crumbs of comfort which may be cast to us, and to be thankful for the most miserable of mercies. We are, in truth, a patient and a long-suffering race, ready, when one cheek has been kicked, to turn the other also, and to bear all sorts of humiliations with the meekest submission.

Some there are amongst us who, without returning evil for evil, would fain do battle as becomes men; others, inspired with the purest motives of humanity, are content to do good for good's sake; to suffer neglect, offer passive resistance to oppression, and pursue, with untiring zeal, the noble, but ill-requested purpose of conferring material blessings on mankind in spite of themselves.

Let us follow, politically, the example of the latter,